

-18-

CLAIMS

1. A method for heating an enclosed space having a window,
the method comprising the steps of:

(a) releasably connecting a portable metal solar heater to an
interior surface of said window, said solar heater having a highly solar
energy absorptive window facing surface;

(b) heating said an enclosed space via the solar heater;

(c) selectively removing the solar heater from said window
during periods when the heating of step b) is not desired; and

(d) repeating steps (a), (b), and (c) to help maintain the an
enclosed space within a desired temperature range.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said highly solar energy
absorptive window facing surface has a black coating.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein said black coating is flat
black paint.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said highly solar energy
absorptive window facing surface has a radiant absorptivity that is no less
than 0.90.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein said radiant absorptivity is
no less than 0.94.

6. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of
2 providing a decorative feature on a side of the solar heater facing away
from the interior surface of the window.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein said decorative feature is
2 a decorative design.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein said decorative design is at
2 least one of painted or embossed.

9. The method of claim 7 wherein said decorative design is
2 defined by having part of the surface coated with paint and another part of
the surface free from any paint coating.

10. A method for heating a house or vehicle including at least
2 two windows having a fixed spacial relationship to each other, the method
comprising the steps of:

4 (a) releasably connecting a portable metal solar heater to an
interior surface of a first one of said windows, said solar heater having a
6 highly solar energy absorptive window facing surface;

8 (b) heating an enclosed space associated with said first one
of said windows via the solar heater;

10 (c) removing the solar heater from said first one of said
windows and releasably connecting the solar heater to an interior surface
of a second one of said windows to follow the movement of the sun
12 relative to said windows; and

-20-

14 (d) heating an enclosed space associated with said second
one of said windows via the solar heater.

2 11. The method of claim 10 wherein the enclosed space of
step (d) is a different enclosed space from the enclosed space of step (b).

2 12. The method of claim 10 further comprising the steps of
affixing a first releasable connector to the first one of said windows and
affixing a second releasable connector to the second one of said windows;
4 and wherein step (c) further comprises disconnecting the solar heater from
the first releasable connector and connecting the solar heater to the second
6 releasable connector.

2 13. The method of claim 10 wherein said highly solar energy
absorptive window facing surface has a black coating.

2 14. The method of claim 11 wherein said black coating is flat
black paint.

2 15. The method of claim 10 wherein said highly solar energy
absorptive window facing surface has a radiant absorptivity that is no less
than 0.90.

2 16. The method of claim 15 wherein said radiant absorptivity
is no less than 0.94.

-21-

17. The method of claim 10 further comprising the step of
2 providing a decorative feature on a side of the solar heater facing away
from the interior surface of the window.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein said decorative feature
2 is a decorative design.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein said decorative design
2 is at least one of painted or embossed.

20. The method of claim 18 wherein said decorative design
2 is defined by having part of the surface coated with paint and another part
of the surface free from any paint coating.

21. A portable solar heater for use with a window of a room
2 or compartment, the solar heater comprising:

4 a sheet metal body having a pair of oppositely facing surfaces
separated by a thickness of the sheet metal, one of the surfaces being a
highly solar energy absorptive window facing surface; and

6 a releasable support to mount said sheet metal body relative
to an interior surface of said window.

22. The portable solar heater of claim 21 wherein said
2 releasable support comprises a suction cup.

-22-

23. The portable solar heater of claim 21 wherein said releas-
2 able support comprises an elongate flexible member extending from said
suction cup to said sheet metal body.

24. The portable solar heater of claim 21 wherein said releas-
2 able support comprises a hook.

25. The portable solar heater of claim 21 wherein said
2 window facing surface is planar.

26. The portable solar heater of claim 21 wherein the window
2 facing surface is concave.

27. The portable solar heater of claim 26 wherein said
2 window facing surface has a radius of curvature that is greater at a center
of the window facing surface than at opposite edges of the window facing
4 surface.

28. The portable solar heater of claim 21 wherein the window
2 facing surface is embossed.

29. The portable solar heater of claim 21 wherein said sheet
2 metal body comprises a peripheral flange extending around said window
facing surface and extending from said window facing surface toward said
4 window with said sheet metal body mounted relative to said interior
surface.

2 30. The portable solar heater of claim 29 wherein at least a lower part of said flange abuts said interior surface.

2 31. The portable solar heater of claim 21 wherein each of said surfaces has a surface area no greater than 2 square feet.

2 32. The portable solar heater of claim 21 wherein said body weighs no more than 2 pounds.

2 33. The portable solar heater of claim 21 wherein said body has an outer periphery shaped to resemble an outline of an object.

2 34. The portable solar heater of claim 21 wherein the other of said oppositely facing surfaces is a room facing surface opposite to the window facing surface.

2 35. The portable solar heater of claim 34 wherein at least said room facing surface has a corrosion protective finish.

2 36. The portable solar heater of claim 34 wherein said room facing surface has a decorative feature thereon.

2 37. The portable solar heater of claim 34 wherein said decorative feature is painted on said room facing surface.

-24-

2 38. The portable solar heater of claim 34 wherein said decorative feature is embossed in said room facing surface.

2 39. The portable solar heater of claim 21 wherein said highly solar energy absorptive window facing surface has a black coating.

2 40. The portable solar heater of claim 39 wherein said black coating is flat black paint.

2 41. The portable solar heater of claim 21 wherein said highly solar energy absorptive window facing surface has a radiant absorptivity that is no less than 0.90.

2 42. The portable solar heater of claim 41 wherein said radiant absorptivity is no less than 0.94.